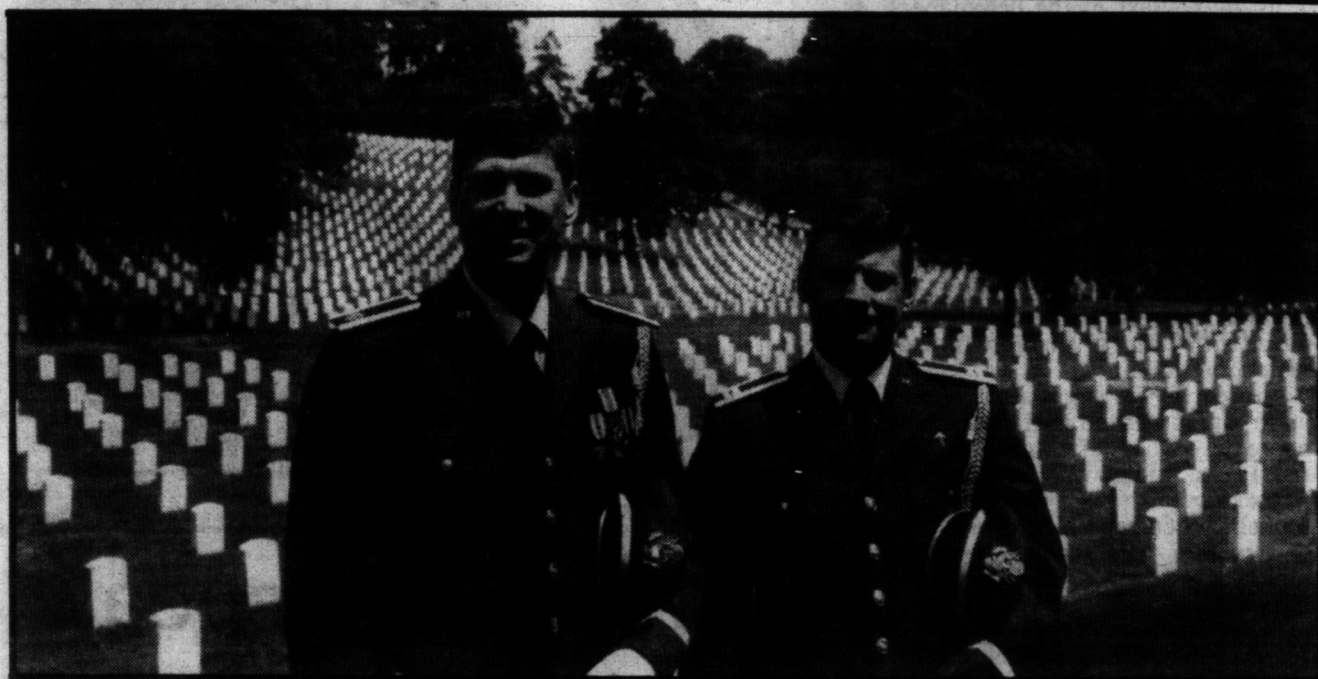


The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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ARLINGTON CEMETERY — Southern Baptist chaplains Maj. Gerald Knighton and Capt. Joel Rayfield minister to families who come to Arlington National Cemetery to bury their loved ones. Knighton, former Mississippian, has performed more than 700 funerals in the three years he has been sta-

tioned at the cemetery in Arlington. As Knighton leaves for a new assignment in Guam, his ministry will be continued by Rayfield, who moved from Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska. (BP Photo by Mark Wingfield)

Former Mississippian stands with vet at Arlington Cemetery

By Mark Wingfield

ARLINGTON, Va. — When America's veterans are laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, a Southern Baptist chaplain stands beside the families with a word of hope.

Maj. Gerald Knighton, a former Mississippi pastor, has attended the graves of more than 700 veterans receiving their final military honors at Arlington. As he leaves the cemetery after three years, Capt. Joel Rayfield, another Southern Baptist chaplain, will continue his ministry.

Both Knighton and Rayfield are Air Force chaplains endorsed by the Southern Baptist Chaplains Commission, which is housed at the Home Mission Board. Knighton left Arlington July 3 for a new assignment in Guam. Rayfield arrived in February from Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska.

Knighton was pastor of Fayette Baptist Church in Fayette, Miss., 1971-1973.

Across the rolling hills of the 612-acre cemetery, about 20 funerals are performed each weekday. The Southern Baptist chaplain, one of five full-time chaplains assigned to the cemetery, may perform as many as five of those services.

If everything goes according to plan, the chaplain counsels with the family by telephone in advance and meets them about 30 minutes prior to the funeral. But because families travel to the cemetery from across the nation, that doesn't always happen, Knighton says.

"Sometimes I literally have a minute and a half to get acquainted

with the family before the service," he explains.

In each case, though, the chaplain attempts to personalize the message and give a word of hope specifically for that family. "We try to deal with them on a personal basis without making it seem like some kind of assembly line process," Knighton says.

Knighton estimates only 20 percent of the families burying their loved ones at Arlington have an active Christian faith. The remaining 80 percent are either nominal church-goers or have no Christian background, he says.

Dealing with death opens a door for ministry to those without faith, Knighton says.

"This is an open door — for some a wide-open door, for some just a little bit open. For some it is the first time they have been open in a long time. This may be the only time they'll ever hear a gospel message."

However, taking the gospel through that open door requires sensitivity, Knighton explains. "You have to show the love of Jesus Christ in a delicate way, in a positive way. You have to plan your sermon to meet the needs of where the people are."

"I do not compromise the gospel, and there is a clear plan of salvation," he adds. "But it's done with a gentleness that encourages people rather than hitting them over the head."

After his first months on the job, Rayfield agrees that ministry at Arlington requires sensitivity and prayer.

"Each service must be preceded by prayer," he says. "Without prayer I

cannot have the ability to minister to that family's basic needs."

"It is important to walk alongside families and show them God is the source that can get them through," Rayfield says. "I attempt to feel where they are and in the brief time I have with them reflect Jesus Christ in my own life. The best way I know to do that is to show them love and caring."

In the process, the chaplains take upon themselves some of the grief the families bring. "If you feel for the family, you're going to feel some of the hurt," Rayfield says. "I don't think I can allow myself not to get involved."

Despite those traumas, what might appear to be a gloomy job has its rewards, the chaplains say. Both requested their assignments at Arlington.

"This has been the best job I've ever had," says Knighton. "The people look you in the face and thank you with a sincerity you know has to be real. It makes up for the moments of great sorrow."

Services at Arlington include a number of emotional symbols in addition to the chaplain's message: a uniformed honor guard, the firing of a military salute, presentation of the American flag and the playing of taps. In some cases, the casket is carried from chapel to graveside by a horse-drawn carriage.

"It's amazing what the blowing of taps says to people. It is saying, 'This person really is dead,'" Rayfield notes.

"I don't ever want to get numb to that."

Wingfield writes for FMB.

Canadian ministry director imprisoned in Cuba

WOODSTOCK, Ontario, Canada (EP) — The Canadian director of a U.S.-based Christian ministry was arrested and held without charge in Cuba by government police for four days recently when he traveled to the country on a "mercy mission."

Wally Featherston, of Woodstock, Ontario, head of ASSIST Canada, was taken into custody by government police minutes after his plane landed at Havana Airport June 24. "I was told to wait in a certain place by the immigration officers at the airport, when suddenly four uniformed guards came and put me into an automobile," Featherston said. "No explanation was offered about my arrest and nothing was told me about what was happening."

On each of six previous visits, Featherston said he visited churches and met with pastors, lay leaders, and members of local churches — all with the knowledge and permission of the government.

On a previous trip to Cuba, Featherston said he visited several churches in the island and had apparently been followed by secret police. When he arrived at the airport to leave he was harassed and told that he had engaged in "illegal activities."

Featherston said that at that time "I showed them their own brochures outlining that I was free to travel in Cuba, attend the church of my choice, take pictures wherever I wanted, except of military installations. They responded by saying, 'We decide what is legal or illegal in our country. We have no human rights here!'"

"I was interrogated by an officer," Featherston said, "for about half an hour. They asked me silly questions. They didn't ask me why I was there, they asked me who my parents were, where they were born, and what they do for a living."

Featherston wasn't allowed any phone calls, or any contact with

anyone from outside the prison. "Every hour I banged on the door and asked to call the Canadian Consulate," he said, but his request was refused. He doesn't know how Canadian officials discovered that he was there, "but somehow they were alerted to my plight and a representative appeared," Featherston said. "After hearing my story he told me, 'We are in a Communist country and they have the right to do whatever they want. We have nothing to say about it.'"

Then, unexpectedly and without explanation, guards came to his cell and told him that "I was deported on the condition that I pay for my own ticket." Featherston said even then there was still confusion and government police continued to harass him.

Cuban authorities "still have yet to give me a reason (for the arrest)," Featherston said. "They would not tell the Canadian Consulate, either." Featherston said he can "only assume that (Fidel) Castro is becoming paranoid" about Western influence in the Communist country.

Dan Wooding, a British journalist who founded ASSIST (Aid to Special Saints In Strategic Times) some 18 months ago, expressed his displeasure with Cuban authorities for arresting the director of his Canadian branch ministry and holding him without charges.

ASSIST International is an organization which works to link individual churches in the West and those in Cuba, Nicaragua, and Romania through its "sister" program.

Featherston said that although he was not able to do the work he had gone to Cuba to do, his wife and daughter, who flew there on an earlier flight, were able to finish it. For some reason, authorities did not try to stop the pair in their efforts to meet with church leaders.



The Home Mission Board has sold its 6.3-acre headquarters site in midtown Atlanta for \$14.5 million and plans to relocate to a new facility in the metropolitan Atlanta area in five years. All proceeds from the sale will be used to secure a new site and construct a new building, President Larry Lewis said. No future Cooperative Program funds or Annie Armstrong Easter Offering funds will be required for the relocation. The new site has not yet been selected. (BP photo by Paul Obregon)

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

An enlightening experience

It was a heartening experience to be an observer for the meeting of the Sunday School Board last week in Nashville. For the past six years the Southern Baptist Press Association, the 67-year-old organization of Southern Baptist state papers, has had in place what we call a networking operation, which calls on the state papers to have staff members covering all of the major meetings of the boards and agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Baptist Record was assigned to cover the Sunday School Board meeting.

For the most part, the meeting was a very positive experience. A year ago there was an attempt to fire Lloyd Elder, the president of the Sunday School Board. This year, except for an occasional outburst, the board meeting was harmonious. The architect of the harmony was the chairman of the board, Bill Anderson, a pastor in Clearwater, Fla. Anderson was elected to his position by the conservative majority on the board and is, indeed, a conservative without apology. Yet it was his firm hand and fairness in presiding that kept the meeting on an even keel.

Elder told this observer that Anderson had been able to do things that neither the president nor the former chairman had been able to do to keep the board at peace with itself. He would want to be able to maintain the peace because of his commitment to fairness, Elder indicated; but he was able to enforce his commitment

because of his conservative position.

There were rough spots. Trustee Robert Tenery of North Carolina noted that the new commentary being planned by the board, the New American Commentary, was born of the inerrancy movement and asked the general editor, David Dockery, if he were an inerrantist, noting that the term had not been in use in the discussions surrounding the commentary.

A remark directed to Tenery by Dan Collins of Florida, who was seated next to Tenery, caused trustee Larry Holly of Beaumont, Texas, seated farther back, to be on his feet with a stinging rebuke of Collins. Anderson, however, took charge of the situation and smoothed it out.

Holly had led last year's attempt to dismiss Elder.

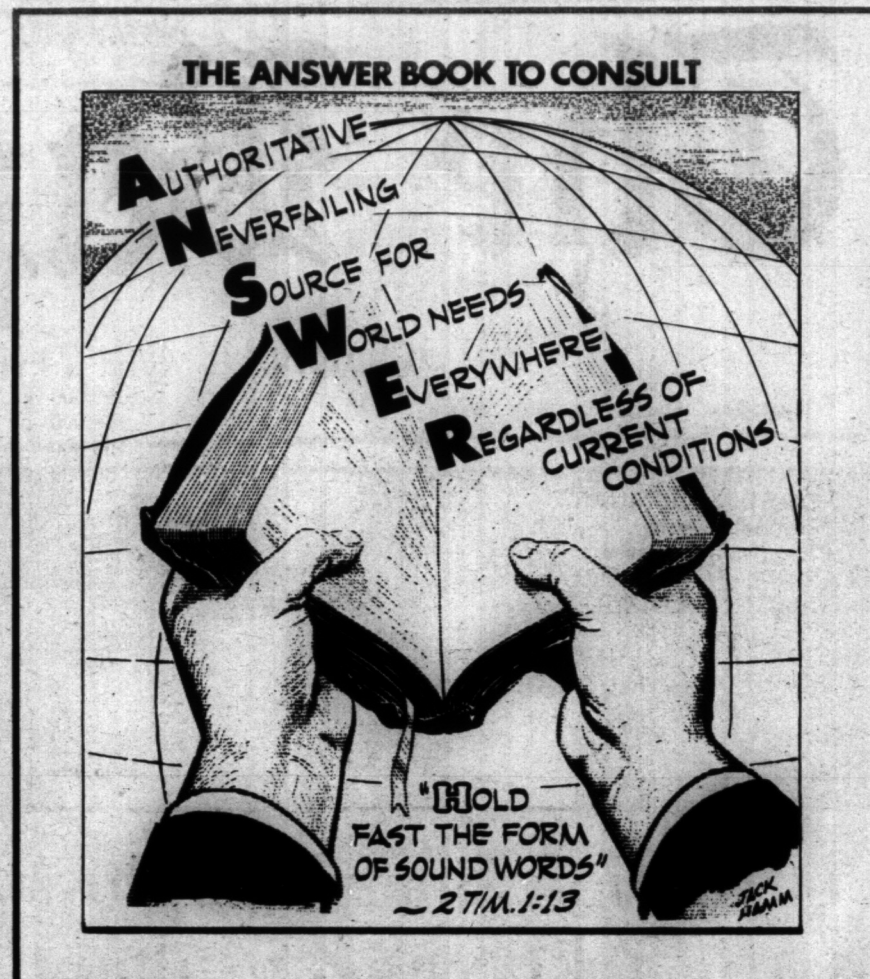
A complaint by trustee Charlene Slotter of Stephenville, Texas, that the Park Plaza Hotel, where most of the trustees were staying, was showing pornographic movies was accompanied by a statement by Mrs. Slotter that a press woman had called her in her room and had complained about her position on the movies. This seemed to implicate Frances Meeker, a reporter for the Nashville Banner, who was the only press woman present. Anderson told the board members that they needed to listen to Mrs. Meeker's explanation that it was not she who called and that to jump to the conclusion that it was she was just as bad as what the papers had been accused of doing. Linda Lawson,

Sunday School Board information director, explained that it had been an Associated Press reporter who had called. But once again, Anderson had taken charge of a potentially explosive situation and had defused it.

In the context of the newspapers and their reports about the movie situation, Danny Strickland, trustee from Florida, said that the presence of the press in the Sunday School Board meeting is a privilege and not a right. In that position, Strickland is wrong. Southern Baptist deliberations should never be carried on in secret. The presence of the press is in effect the presence of all Southern Baptists in the various meetings, and it must be thus. Surely Strickland would agree with that if given more time to reflect on the matter.

The networking operation of the state papers was the seed from which came the concept of Associated Baptist Press, which will be the state papers covering such meetings and funneling their reports through a central system. The seeds were sown eight years ago when the idea of the networking operation was first presented to the editors of the papers. The system has been working well for six years and is on the verge of being enhanced by further refinement.

Because of the networking operation, the Baptist Record covered the Sunday School Board meeting last week. It was an enlightening experience. This is a tribute to trustee Chairman Bill Anderson, who caused it to be so.



Baptists will speak

Surely Hugh Barlow, art teacher at William Carey College, would know that Mississippi Baptists are not going to put up with nude models in art classes on one of their campuses.

Since he was fired because of the circumstances, Barlow has sued the college. There is no way of knowing,

of course, how a court would rule, if the matter gets that far; but in some way, Mississippi Baptists will make their will known. And, in the final analysis, Mississippi Baptists are the ultimate decision makers.

The teacher declared that it was a fundamentalist ploy that caused him to lose his job, but that surely is not the case. Mississippi Baptists will see it as a matter of morality, and all can be assured that it is a matter that will not be repeated.

Everyone would agree that it is fine to teach art in a Christian context. Using nude models does not seem to be the way to do it.

Regardless of any court decision, the William Carey administration can only be judged correct in handling such a situation in such a positive way.

tional Bold Mission Prayer Thrust coordinators will be scheduled throughout the year. One of those training events will be a PrayerLife Retreat at Wall Doxie State Park, May 20-21, 1991. This prayer retreat will be led by T. W. Hunt of Discipleship Training Department, Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. These Associational Bold Mission Prayer Thrust coordinators, having received training, will be available to churches within their associations to provide help for their church coordinators.

Power to be bold witnesses comes through prayer. Prayer enables the Holy Spirit to fill a person's life and gives him/her the boldness to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Mose D. Dangerfield is Discipleship Training Department director and a member of the Baptist Building Bold Mission Prayer Thrust Committee.

Feel the dignity of a child. Do not feel superior to him, for you are not. — Robert Henri

Guest opinion . . .

My pastor

I would like to tell you about my pastor. He is someone who is a great influence on my life. He teaches me much by the way he handles problems and deals with people. He is loved by many, hated by some, and ignored by most.

He believes in Sunday School and Discipleship Training because he knows how important these are to Christian growth, but many do not respond.

He believes in worshipping together and invites everyone to come and be as faithful as possible. Though often ignored, he never gives up.

He believes in giving and teaching how God blesses a cheerful giver. He knows how the gifts are used to spread the gospel around the world. He set the example by giving the most.

He believes in prayer. Prayer provides the needed resources to carry out the Great Commission. Through prayer we receive God's grace and guidance.

He is often abused with little thanks in return. He is criticized by some church members when he doesn't do as they think he should. When he asks for help in carrying out the Great Commission, excuses come from every direction.

Some people become very angry when he preaches the truth and con-

fronts them with their sin and concern. Yet, he still loves them and treats them as if they did no wrong.

He believes in his people and cares for their highest good. Though some talk ugly about him, he still forgives — he only wants to help.

Still there are those who love him very much. They support him, encourage him, and try to lighten the load. They are ready to serve at any time. They try to listen when he brings his message and apply the Word to their lives, because they know that he only wants what is best for them.

He is called on 24 hours a day, and often meets with people late at night and even in the wee hours of the morning. Yet he continues his work the next day without hesitation and never complains.

He never brags about what he has done, because he wants the glory to go to God. He is always ready to listen and help those who are in need. He has a lot of good advice from many years of experience, but few ask for it.

He sets a good example for others to follow. We could learn much from my pastor.

You ask, "Who is this unusual pastor friend of mine?" Why, his name is Jesus, the Greatest Pastor.

James M. Henson

Guest opinion . . .

Bold Mission Prayer

By Mose D. Dangerfield

The decade of the 1990s is the final decade for Southern Baptist churches to achieve the Bold Mission Thrust objective that every person on earth has the opportunity of hearing and responding to the gospel by the year 2000. To accomplish this, each Southern Baptist church must give itself to prayer.

God intends for churches to be houses of prayer. In Matthew 21:13 Jesus recognizes that prayer had been and still is a function of the temple when he quoted from Isaiah 56:7, "Mine house shall be called a house of prayer for all people."

Bold Mission Prayer Thrust will direct the focus of your church's praying to this end. Bold Mission Prayer Thrust is a way of helping your church have a network of intercessory prayer that:

- Calls upon God for revival in world evangelism.
- Seeks the plan of God in behalf of church, associational, state, national, and international Bold Mission Thrust goals.

Bold Mission Prayer Thrust is a five-year prayer plan to help each church develop and implement prayer support for the vision of giving every person in the world the opportunity to

hear and respond to the gospel by the year 2000.

The role of the pastor in Bold Mission Thrust is very critical. Like the apostles, the pastor is committed to prayer and will probably be the one who initiates Bold Mission Prayer Thrust in his church. He will present Bold Mission Prayer Thrust to the church council for its approval and support.

If there is no church council, he will work through the church's procedure for adopting new plans of work. The suggestion is that the pastor lead his church to elect a Bold Mission Prayer Thrust coordinator to lead this prayer plan. The coordinator works closely with the pastor, the program prayer leaders, and the church council in developing and leading Bold Mission Prayer Thrust in his church.

Each association has been challenged to elect a Bold Mission Prayer Thrust coordinator who will help provide leadership, training, and inspiration to local church Bold Mission Thrust coordinators. These Bold Mission Prayer Thrust coordinators were given preliminary training at the Associational Officers Planning Meeting at Alta Woods in May of this year. Additional training for Associa-

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State Missions Season of Prayer

"Reach, Teach, Touch . . .
in Harmony"

SEPT. 9-12, 1990

ALLOCATIONS

NEW MISSIONS	\$150,000
CENTRAL HILLS	160,000
CAMP GARAYWA	155,000
DISASTER RELIEF	35,000
SPECIAL MINISTRIES	5,300
National Baptists	\$1,900
Choctaw Indians	\$3,400
PARCHMAN MINISTRY	20,000
CHURCH BUILDING AID/ PASTORAL AID	37,200
STUDENT WORK, BLACK CAMPUSES	15,000
CHURCH PLANTER, PEARL RIVER ASSOCIATION	7,500
MISSIONS AWARENESS	10,000
TOTAL	\$595,000

Convention Board employs Matt Buckles as consultant

Douglas Matthew (Matt) Buckles has begun work as a part time consultant at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



Buckles, of Blue Mountain, will serve half-time as a consultant in the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department. Among his areas of work will be aiding in skill development for bivocational pastors and in service guidance for ministerial students in Baptist colleges and pastors of single staff churches.

Buckles, 34, a native of Meadville, has been pastor of Lowrey Memorial

Church, Blue Mountain, since 1986. Prior to that, he was pastor of Goss Church, Goss, 1982-86; Sylvarena Church, Wesson, 1979-82; and Hamburg Church, Roxie, 1976-79.

Buckles is a graduate of Mississippi College and earned master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from New Orleans Seminary.

"The anticipated plan is that Buckles will not only serve part time at the MBCB, but will be employed a bivocational pastor in the Jackson area," said Julius Thompson, department director. "At this point Buckles has not been led into a bivocational pastorate, but our hope is that this will be done in the very near future," Thompson added.

He and his wife Karen have two children.

HMB sells midtown site, will relocate in Atlanta

By Mark Wingfield

ATLANTA (BP) — The Home Mission Board has sold its 6.3-acre headquarters site in midtown Atlanta for \$14.5 million and plans to relocate to a new facility in the metropolitan Atlanta area in five years.

The sale was approved by the agency's board of directors during a March 14 meeting in Atlanta but could not be made public until the transaction was closed, President Larry Lewis said. He announced completion of the sale to trustees during their Aug. 8 meeting.

The buyer is AmProp Georgia I Limited Partnership of Chicago.

Terms of the sale call for the HMB to lease its current facilities at 1350 Spring St. from AmProp for five years while a new site is selected and a new headquarters building is designed and constructed. Proceeds from the sale will be invested and drawn upon as they are needed for the relocation, Lewis said.

"We are planning for this relocation to be a cost recovery transaction," Lewis said. "Proceeds from the sale of our midtown property will be used in the development of a new headquarters site."

He explained that no future

Cooperative Program funds will be required to finance the project and that Annie Armstrong Easter Offering funds could not be used because they go directly to the mission field.

Lewis said future cost-savings is a major reason for the relocation. "We have been in our current facilities more than 20 years, and the cost of maintaining deteriorating buildings is now consuming more of our missions money than we think is appropriate. We expect to enter a new facility debt-free, with a lower overhead that will allow us to channel more money into direct missions."

John Faris, a businessman from Laurens, S.C., was chairman of the committee. Serving with him were Brad Allen of Duncan, Okla.; Carolyn Byrd of Charlotte, N.C.; Clifford Hogue of Midland, Texas; Clark Hutchinson of Marietta, Ga.; Liston Morris of Columbia, Miss.; Ronnie Yarber of Mesquite, Texas; and board chairman Ralph Smith of Austin, Texas.

Danny Moore, director of the HMB's business division, served as staff coordinator for the committee and will continue to work with the new committee on relocation.

Wingfield writes for HMB.

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

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Thursday, August 23, 1990

Published Since 1877

Convention will include lay missions conference

By Tim Nicholas

Convention week activities in November should have something for everyone, according to planners. All programs will be taking place at First Church, Jackson.

The activities include a new lay missions conference and a return to six convention sessions, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Pre-convention programs on Monday, Nov. 12, include sessions for pastors, for ministers' wives, and for laymen. These programs all begin at 1:30 that afternoon. That is when the Pastors' Conference, the Ministers' Wives Conference, and the missions fellowships all meet.

The Pastors' Conference, according to their president, J. Roy McComb, pastor of First Church, Columbia, will have two out-of-state speakers and three from Mississippi.

Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Tex., will be joined on the Pastors' Conference program by Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church, Mobile. Wolfe is an officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

The three other conference speakers will be Stan Fornea, pastor of First Church, Cleveland; Ken Alford, pastor of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton; and Dean Register, pastor of First Church, Gulfport.

McComb said Fornea has been asked to speak on the topic, "The Preaching of the Church." Alford will speak on "The Pastor of the Church." And Register will speak on "The Power of the Church."

Bill Bacon, minister of music at First Church, Clinton, will lead the music for the afternoon session. Mike Parks, minister of music at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, will lead the

music that evening.

Ministers' wives will be meeting also on Monday afternoon. They will have choices of four simultaneous sessions from which to choose. The sessions will be "How to Polish Your Halo," led by Betty Davis; "Coping in the Minister's Home," led by Wilda Fancher; "Kudos for the Stage Hands," led by Lynda Street; and "Parenting in the Minister's Home," led by Ron Mumbower.

Davis is wife of the pastor of Glade Church, Laurel, and an approved worker for the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries (CAPM) Department. Fancher is an author and wife of the consultant in the MBCB's Evangelism Department; Street is wife of the pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson, and an approved worker for the CAPM Department. Mumbower is minister of counseling for First Church, Jackson.

Also at 1:30 a series of mission fellowship groups will meet prior to kickoff of a lay missions conference. The fellowship groups which will meet, according to Paul Harrell, Brotherhood Department director for the MBCB, include agri-missions, construction, church renewal, ham radio operators, educators, and medical-dental.

At 3 on Monday afternoon, a Lay Missions Conference will take place. Theme of the program will be "Ministry in the Marketplace," to be interpreted by Leonard Sanderson, an evangelism consultant for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Following that meeting at 5 p.m., will be a missions banquet for laypersons and pastors. Guest speaker will be Jerry Clower, Baptist layman and

Mississippi humorist.

Cost of the banquet will be \$6 per person. Tickets will be available from the Brotherhood Department at a later date.

That evening, laypersons are especially invited to the last session of the Pastors' Conference at 7.

The next morning begins the annual Mississippi Baptist Convention. Chairman of the Committee on Order of Business, Gary Berry, pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, reported that the theme of the convention will be from the prayer of Jesus in John 17: "... that they all may be one."

In recent years, the committee has scheduled a devotional speaker for a series called Bible Treasures. This year's speaker will be Frank Pollard, pastor of the host church. He will deliver a devotional for each morning and afternoon session, Tuesday-Wednesday.

Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will speak on Tuesday evening concerning missions in Mississippi.

MBC President Eddie Hamilton, pastor of Oak Forest Church, Jackson, will give the president's address on Wednesday morning.

The annual convention sermon will be preached on Wednesday morning by Rex Yancey, pastor of First Church, Quitman.

Wednesday afternoon, Henry Blackaby, the Home Mission Board's prayer consultant, will speak. And closing out the convention on Wednesday evening, will be a sermon by Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Church, Fort Worth.

Nicholas is director, Office of Communications, MBCB.

Carey College administration responds to lawsuit publicity

The administration of William Carey College has chosen not to respond publicly to a lawsuit by a former art department chairman who claimed he was fired for using nude models in art classes.

William Carey College has instead mailed letters to all Mississippi Baptist pastors in response to publicity concerning the lawsuit. In the letter, Carey president, Jim Edwards, quoted a news article about the lawsuit. Said Edwards: "In dealing with the issue of the use of nude models, the article quoted Dr. Ron Kirkland of the Mississippi Baptist

Convention's Education Commission, who reportedly said, 'I know they would not have live nude models at William Carey.'"

Added Edwards, "Ron Kirkland was right. As I have stated to you and our trustee board on previous occasions, our faculty, staff, and administration are committed to being a distinctive Christian college."

The letter refers to a lawsuit by Hugh Barlow, a former art department chairman, who was fired in June, reportedly for continuing to use live nude models in figure drawing classes. Barlow, according to press

reports, has filed a civil suit against Carey in Harrison County Circuit Court for a total of \$176,000. That is his salary of \$26,000, plus \$150,000 for damages.

A Gulf Coast Sun-Herald article dated Aug. 18 erroneously reported that "Baptist colleges in Mississippi receive funding from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and operate under the board's dictates." Some funding of the schools' budgets comes from the Cooperative Program. However, trustees of the colleges are the only person who have any authority to operate the schools.

Attala CAC adopts resolution of appreciation

The Christian Action Committee of the Attala Association has adopted a resolution of appreciation for legislators who voted against gambling in Mississippi.

In part, the document states:

"Whereas the messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention over the years have voiced opposition to gambling... and whereas the majority of the Southern Baptist churches in Mississippi... oppose gambling as a menace to society, and whereas the elected representatives of our district have encountered unbelievable political pressure from the gambling establishment as well as the editorial staff of the Clarion-Ledger.

"Be it resolved that the Executive Board of the Attala Baptist Association, representing 32 Southern Baptist churches in this county, convey our deepest appreciation to Representative Butch McMillan of Kosciusko, and Senator Buddy Bond of Carthage for voting against the proposition of

amending the state constitution to allow legalized gambling in the form of a state run lottery in Mississippi, and

"Be it resolved that this body encourage our church members to heed the editor's advice of the Clarion-Ledger and truly remember the paper's 'hit list' of those who opposed legalized gambling when the two above members seek re-election.

"And be it further resolved that we follow the counsel of the apostle Paul in Romans 13:6 'For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they (our elected officials) are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.' By so doing we honor those who fulfill their God-given responsibilities to uphold the cause of decency and morality."

Members of the Christian Action Committee are Bill Tolleson, chairman; Horace McMillan; Thomas Cade; Joseph Knight; Denver Rawson; and Richard Scott.

Foreign missions comes home

Five tired, hungry, and confused men from Mexico recently arrived in Winona. Unable to communicate, and without any idea of their whereabouts, they were relieved to discover a police officer who, rather than locking them up, called Margarita Vaughn, who could speak their language.

After conferring with the Immigration Service, they were released from custody. Immediately, Vaughn began to arrange for food, clothing, and lodging for the men.

It was not long before she had her Spanish Bible out, with all five men gathered around it. They were openly and willingly ready to ask Jesus to come into their hearts.

At that point, Ronnie Ballard was called. Ballard has served as a foreign missionary in Paraguay. He, too, talked with each of the men. One by one, they got on their knees and prayed to receive Christ.

Their first concern after making

professions of faith was to be baptized. Since Ballard was knowledgeable in their language, and had been instrumental in leading them to the Lord, North Winona Church pastor Frank Bishop called Ballard to baptize the men that Sunday night.

Ballard, Carroll-Montgomery DOM, made special arrangements to return early from a weekend revival, and when Sunday night came, one of the men was sick from too much good Winona food! Three were baptized Sunday night, and the fourth on Monday.

Upon suggestion of one of the North Winona members, a collection was taken to provide the men bus fare home. The church is still trying to provide aid to the men. Pastor Bishop calls the incident a "beautiful example of foreign missions coming home."

(Adapted from July 11, 1990 issue of North Winona Church's newsletter.)

Senior adult Chautauquas set

NASHVILLE — Six 1990 Senior Adult Chautauqua conferences will be held this fall at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

A total of 13 Chautauquas have been set during September, October, and November, with four at Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center, and three at Green Lake (Wis.) Conference Center.

The weeklong conferences designed specifically for senior adults are sponsored by the Sunday School Board's family ministry department.

At Ridgecrest, the worship leaders are: Sept. 24-28, Jerry Hayner, pastor of Forest Hills Church of Raleigh, N.C.; Oct. 1-5, Charles Page, pastor of First Church of Nashville; Oct. 8-12, Darold Morgan, retired president of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board in Dallas; Oct. 15-19, Bill Elder, pastor of Vestavia Hills Church in Birmingham, Ala.; Oct. 22-26, Dan Yearly, pastor of University Church in Coral Gables, Fla.; and Oct. 29-Nov. 2, Frank Crumpler, pastor of Brainerd

Church of Chattanooga, Tenn.

At Glorieta, the worship leaders are: Sept. 17-21, Paul Powell, president of the SBC Annuity Board; Sept. 24-28, Calvin Metcalf, pastor of Central Church of Fountain City near Knoxville, Tenn.; Oct. 1-5, Jim Keith, church building fund-raising consultant from Richardson, Texas; and Oct. 8-12, Bill Tisdale, Sunday School Board trustee and pastor of First Church of Henderson, Texas.

At Green Lake, the worship leaders are: Sept. 10-14, Gail Zimmerman, evangelism/stewardship director for the Minnesota/Wisconsin Southern Baptist Convention in Rochester, Minn.; Oct. 1-5, Landon Miller, retired pastor from Richmond, Va.; and Oct. 8-12, Wendell Garrison, pastor of Winstanley Church in Fairview Heights, Ill.

For a brochure with information on the Chautauquas, write Jay Johnson, MSN 140, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234 or call 615/251-2280.



Painting the house of a widow in Bruce is a mission project a group of Calhoun County men chose.

Calhoun County men paint widow's house in Bruce

"I do fully know you can't outgive God," declared Lucille Cannon, member of First Church, Bruce. She quoted Ecclesiastes 11:1 — "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days," and added, "Bread cast upon water will return many days later. Fifty-three years ago, my husband, Drew Cannon, and I painted a nine-room house for a blind man, Jack McCormick, and his family. What do you know? A group of men from several churches came in June and painted my house. When they called and said they were going to paint my house, I was so overjoyed, I said, 'I do not know whether I can take it! I may just get in the chariot and go home!'"

The Calhoun County men painted the house of Mrs. Cannon, a widow, as one of their mission projects. They are

members of a group of Baptists who usually carry out mission projects in Mexico every February. In Mexico, working with Wayne Fleming, a Southern Baptist who is an independent missionary, they have built two churches and have distributed food and clothing.

This year they took a van to be used to bring children to church. During the summer, in addition, some Calhoun County youths taught Vacation Bible School in Mexico. Mrs. Cannon has participated in these missions by collecting clothing and quilts and other items to send to Mexico; she has gone on at least one of the mission trips herself.

Two women prepared lunch and took it to Mrs. Cannon's house for the painters.



Two women serve lunch to painters and to Lucille Cannon, whose house is being painted. Mrs. Cannon is at left forefront.



A painter looks a bit like a character in a Western movie as he climbs the roof of Lucille Cannon's house in Bruce.

Broadmoor will host singles conference

Broadmoor Church will host a three-day wholeness seminar for single adults in September. The seminar, which will be held September 7-9, is entitled "The Big Picture: A Wholeness Seminar for Single Adults" and features a concert by contemporary Christian singer Jonathan Scott of Florida.

The seminar is open to all interested single adults. A fee of \$15 will cover the concert and all activities. Sessions led by qualified experts in psychology, counseling, finance, and theology will focus on contemporary topics important to singles such as communication, divorce, self-esteem, finances, and dating.

Activities begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 7. Deadline for registration is Sunday, Sept. 2. To register for the seminar, or to find out more, call 366-8500.

NOBTS grants degrees

The New Orleans Seminary granted degrees to five candidates with Mississippi ties on July 27. They are Russell D. Barksdale of Tulsa, Okla., master of divinity, now pastor at First Church, Carthage; Gregory Allen Foster of Pascagoula, associate of divinity with emphasis in pastoral ministry, now associate pastor of Eastlawn Church in Pascagoula; William Earl Reyer of Benton, master of divinity, now pastor of First Church of Henleyfield in Carriere; Andy Wright of Columbus, master of divinity, now minister of youth at Metairie Church in Metairie, La.; and Callie Beth Sartain of Ethel, master of arts in Christian Education, now children's ministry intern at First Church in Gulfport.

Cooperative Program gifts are ahead of budget

Mississippi Baptists gave just over \$1.5 million in July to their unified budget plan, the Cooperative Program according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer, MBCB.

The gifts, totaling \$1,500,379, added to the first six months' total, is \$11,829,414, he said. The seven months of gifts are \$927,857 more than that given in the same period of 1989, an 8.51 percent increase, Causey noted.

The pro rata budget amount for seven months of 1990 would be \$11,422,362. This means that giving is \$407,088, or 3.56 percent, ahead of the budget.

The total 1990 budget is \$19,581,130.

Senior adult corner

Sun. Aug. 26: Lively Livers, Senior Adult day; Terry Road Church, Jackson; Neal Browning, Clinton, speaker; Robert Nations, former music director, special music; dinner and fellowship period following the morning service. Henry Bennett is pastor.

Mission vet to speak, Ag Missions

Veterinarian Dale E. Beighle, missionary to Bophuthatswana, will speak to the summer meeting of the board of directors of Agricultural Missions Foundation, Ltd. in the Mississippi Chemical Corporation boardroom, Yazoo City, on Aug. 30, beginning at 10 a.m. Although this is a board meeting, those interested in agricultural missions are invited to attend, according to Gene Triggs, chairman.

Beighle received his doctor of veterinary medicine degree from Auburn University and attended Southern Seminary. A native of Kentucky, he has served as an agricultural missionary 15 years. He is married to the former Ann Puckett; they have three children.

In addition to being a professor at the School of Agriculture of the University of Bophuthatswana, Beighle leads discipleship classes and teaches theological education by extension to local pastors. This is his first visit to Mississippi.

Conference for blind formed at SBC

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The Southern Baptist Conference for the Blind was organized at a special meeting during the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans. The inaugural meeting was attended by six individuals who are blind or who minister to the blind.

The conference will meet annually, with its 1991 meeting in Nashville and its 1992 meeting in conjunction with Home Missions Week at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Five objectives were adopted for the conference:

- To provide opportunities for fellowship among blind members of Southern Baptist churches;
- To provide opportunities for blind Southern Baptists to develop leader-

Architectural services to begin cost sharing

NASHVILLE — Effective Oct. 1, most of the free services of the Sunday School Board's church architecture department will be changed to a "cost sharing" basis, according to Gwenn McCormick, department director.

Affected services include on-site consultations, sketches, plan reviews, and special studies.

In a letter to state Baptist convention building consultants, McCormick said the decision to charge churches for "a small part of the cost of providing these services" was necessary to maintain all of the services.

"We believe the services of this department meet such critical needs for the churches that they should be maintained," McCormick said. "Southern Baptists would not be well served by lowering the level of these services."

He said the department will continue to offer services at no cost to new church starts, including one on-site consultation and first sketches.

"We will also continue to provide services at no cost to churches with

Annuity Board assets at \$2.9 billion after second quarter earnings rise

DALLAS — Total assets of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention are nearing \$3 billion, trustees were told in Nashville during their July 30-31 meeting.

Treasurer Harold D. Richardson reported a sharp recovery in earnings during the second quarter after a lack-luster performance in equity and bond markets during the first three months of the year. Total earnings for the first six months exceeded \$100 million.

Paul W. Powell, president, noted that agencies and institutions added 3,300 new members to the Convention Annuity Plan in the first six months, generating an additional \$5.5 million annual contribution to assets, which totalled \$2.917 billion on June 30.

Benefits paid by the Annuity Board totalled \$88.9 million in the first half

of 1990, up \$3.8 million, or 4.58 percent, over the same period in 1989.

The relief committee of the board reported approval of 37 persons for grants. The relief ministry of the board is funded by the Cooperative Program.

One hundred fifteen annuitants were approved for a \$50-per-month increase under the board's Adopt An Annuity program, bringing to 669 the number receiving the monthly addition to benefits.

Trustees promoted two directors to vice president. They are Douglas D. Day, director in property and casualty, and Robert P. Henry, director in member services.

Honeycutt on schedule

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt said doctors have told him his recuperation following recent open heart surgery is "right on schedule."

G. Willis Bennett, provost of the Louisville, Ky., seminary, is serving as acting president during Honeycutt's absence.

ship skills;

— To encourage blind church members to participate actively in their churches;

— To make Southern Baptists aware of the many blind people among their churches and communities and to encourage Baptist leadership to provide needed ministries; and

— To offer assistance in the development and distribution of educational and evangelistic materials for the use of blind individuals.

Charles Couey of Nashville was elected president of the new organization. People who are interested in receiving information about the Southern Baptist Conference for the Blind can write to Couey at 103 Brenda Lane, Antioch, TN 37013.

buildings damaged by fire, flood, or storms," he added.

Fees for churches, based on resident membership, will range from \$50 to \$150 for on-site consultation, \$50 to \$400 for sketches and \$50 to \$100 for plan reviews. Fees for special studies, including media library furnishings and equipment plans, will range from \$40 to \$60, based on square footage. Charges for simple elevations will be for actual drawing time, usually \$150 to \$300, McCormick said.

Persons desiring specific information related to services for their church may contact their state Baptist building consultant or the Church Architecture Department at (615) 251-2466.

For Mississippi churches, the services of James Harrell, church building consultant, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will still be available at no cost to the churches. These services include committee training, on-site consultation for space needs, types of buildings, and long-range planning.

Thursday, August 23, 1990

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

MBCB offers conferences

A series of training conferences are planned in four Mississippi towns for associational officers.

The dates, places and times are Aug. 25, First Church, Oxford, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Aug. 27, First Church, Brandon, 5:45 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.; Aug. 28, First Church, Winona, 5:45 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.; and Aug. 30, First Church, Columbia, 5:45 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

The conferences, sponsored by the program director's office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will offer training for 14 groups of officers.

There will be training for directors of missions and moderators; clerks; Brotherhood leaders; Christian Ac-

tion; evangelism; family ministry; media library; music; pastoral ministries; WMU — all age groups; Sunday School — including work in ASSIST; Discipleship Training; stewardship; and Cooperative Missions and missions development.

Those officers planning to attend a training session, need to notify their directors of missions more a week before the event since organizers need a firm count on those attending.

The Saturday morning session will include a complimentary lunch. The evening sessions begin with a complimentary supper at 5:45, with the program to start at 6:15.

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Sunday School Board trustees meet in Nashville

By Jim Lowry

NASHVILLE (BP) — Finances, products, and planning commanded the attention of trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board during their semiannual meeting, Aug. 13-15, in Nashville.

In financial matters, the 91-member board approved a 1990-91 budget of \$190.4 million, which is \$6.7 million more than the current year's budget.

During the publishing committee's report, trustees heard an update on the progress of *The New American Commentary*, including the announcement of the first volume for publication in the 40-volume set.

In June 1991, the board will publish a volume containing commentary on Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon, written by Richard R. Melick Jr. of Mid-America Seminary in Memphis, Tenn. The four volumes which likely will follow in 1992 include I, II Timothy, Titus; Mark; Acts; and Romans. All volumes of the 40-volume set are scheduled to be published by 1997, trustees were told.

The New American Commentary, first authorized by trustees in February 1987, will be written according to the doctrinal guidelines of the Baptist Faith and Message; and the Chicago Statement on Inerrancy will serve as the operating definition of biblical inerrancy.

Trustees adopted several recommendations from the church programs and services committee, including a proposal to establish a special workgroup of trustees to work in consultation with Sunday School Board employees to prepare a 13-week series of Sunday school lessons for evaluation. A preliminary report will be made to the full board of trustees in August 1991 and a final report at the February 1992 meeting.

Final approval was given to an average 5.8 percent increase in church literature prices to become effective with the April 1991 issues. Also, Sunday school periodicals will be increased an additional 4.4 percent, effective October 1991, to cover additional costs related to Breakthrough Sunday school literature improvements being introduced that quarter. The combined increase during the 1991 calendar year is expected to be 7-7.5 percent.

Because of inflation, operating costs and facility maintenance, trustees approved an average 7 percent rate increase for 1991 summer

conference center rates.

Trustees also authorized the deletion of five products, the addition of six new products, and one title change. Items to be deleted include three foreign-language periodicals, a youth Bible study audio cassette, and a leisure-listening tape.

One of the new products is *Home Life Digest*, a cassette tape edition of selected, unabridged articles from each monthly issue of *Home Life* magazine.

Four new Spanish Bible study products also were approved and the title of the Workers Meeting Resource Kit was changed to Planning and Promotion Resource Kit.

Trustees unanimously approved the opening of a new Baptist Book Store in Charleston, S.C., on or about July 1, 1991.

Strong support and numerous requests in recent years from Southern Baptists contributed to the decision to open the 63rd store in the chain there, according to Bill Graham, director of the book store division. Charleston and surrounding cities also comprise one of the fastest growing Southern Baptist areas in the state, he said.

During the Tuesday morning miscellaneous business session, trustees unanimously approved a motion by Charlene Slotter, trustee from Stephenville, Texas, to request the Park Plaza Hotel to stop making "pornographic movies" available in their rooms. The hotel, located adjacent to the Sunday School Board property, is where trustees stayed while attending the meeting.

Trustees received reports on several areas of work at the board, including the Church Information Systems and BTN, which will cease operation on Oct. 1, 1990.

A review in *Christian Computing* magazine of the recently released TOUCH computer software from CIS was shared with trustees. The materials were very favorably recommended to churches by the trustees.

Johnnie Godwin, vice president for general publishing, told trustees about the board's involvement, along with the Foreign Mission Board and other evangelical groups, in the Moscow Project, a plan to provide four million New Testaments for distribution in Moscow in the summer of 1991.

Godwin called the opportunity to participate in the project "an open

door" into the Soviet Union for Southern Baptists and other Christians. He said canisters will soon be available in all Baptist Book Stores to allow contributions directly to the Moscow Project from interested book store customers. No Cooperative Program dollars are involved in the support of this project.

Contributions can be made in Baptist Book Stores and other Christian book stores, or mailed directly to The Moscow Project, Evangelical Christian Publishers Association, 950 West Southern Avenue, Suite 106-B, Tempe, Ariz. 85282. Godwin said all contributions would be matched dollar for dollar by the International Bible Society. The Moscow Project is sponsored by ECPA.

Trustees also were given information on the June 21 approval of the body's executive committee to terminate operation of the Baptist Telecommunication Network. Reasons for the termination were a total "cumulative loss of \$14.3 million in a seven-year period and an anticipated loss next year of \$1 million.

The recommendation was received and approved to name the new office/conference tower, which is under construction atop the board's operations building, the Centennial Tower, since the building will be completed and occupied during the centennial year of the board. The name of the board's personnel department was changed to the human resources department.

In an hour of celebration for the board's centennial, trustees convened in a special plenary session with Sunday School Board employees. Trustee Chairman Bill Anderson, pastor of Calvary Church of Clearwater, Fla., Vice Chairman Gene Mims, pastor of First Church of Cleveland, Tenn., and board President Lloyd Elder led the celebration, along with several board employees.

Recommendations from the general administration committee dealt with several employment benefits, including an increase from 3 to 4 percent for matching compensation in the Employee Savings Plan. The retirement plan was amended, effective Oct. 1, to provide possible retirement benefits for employees over age 55 whose jobs are terminated because of business conditions.

Lowry serves on the staff of BSSB.

Missionaries are safe, waiting in Middle East

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptist representatives in the Middle East have made contingency plans to evacuate should hostilities erupt with Iraq.

News of the contingency plans reached the Foreign Mission Board at the same time the U.S. State Department reconfirmed that a Southern Baptist family in Iraqi-controlled Kuwait has taken refuge in the U.S. Embassy compound.

State Department Kuwait task force member Judy Dunbar reconfirmed Aug. 10 that the Southern Baptist family in Kuwait, Maurice and Laurie Graham and their 13- and 10-year-old sons, were reported safe in the embassy compound, according to a cable from U.S. officials there. Graham is from Shelbyville, Tenn., and his wife is from Hutchinson, Kansas. The Grahams have been in the country less than three months to do youth and music work at the National Evangelical Church.

Dale Thorne, who directs Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board work in the Middle East and North Africa, said Aug. 13 that evacuation plans for workers in the region are being made should they become necessary. "Our people in the various countries have been meeting," he said. "We want them to keep their plans current."

Thorne said the workers are maintaining a low profile, "not being too obvious in their movements, especially in countries with anti-American demonstrations going on."

In Jordan, Southern Baptist representative Gerry Milligan is seeing such demonstrations daily at the University of Jordan in Amman, where he is on the nursing faculty.

Milligan's wife, Arylis, heads the

group of about 25 Southern Baptist workers assigned to Jordan. She said Aug. 13 that the university president told her husband that he didn't think the situation was dangerous but neither could he guarantee absolute safety for Americans. A dean at the school later told Milligan he should be careful wherever he goes.

"You get conflicting reports," Mrs. Milligan said. "We are just on hold here, not really knowing what to do, listening to the news accounts at every moment. We're waiting to see what's going to happen, whether we need to leave or if things are going to settle down."

In Bahrain, Southern Baptist worker Don Littlejohn, who works as a medical technology supervisor at a hospital, said the only sign of tension is the exodus of a number of foreign executives from the island nation, which is just a few miles from Saudi Arabia and some 300 miles from Kuwait.

Littlejohn and his wife, Peggy, are the only Southern Baptist workers now in Bahrain. Three other workers assigned to the country currently are in the United States.

"We're prepared to leave if things take an unlikely bad turn," Littlejohn said Aug. 13, "but it seems so far that we will be staying."

Bahraini citizens and non-executive expatriate workers seem to be staying in Bahrain, Littlejohn said, adding, "There's definitely a lot of people here who do not know Jesus from all parts of the world." He told of a Sri Lankan woman who attended English-language classes that his wife led by utilizing readings from the Bible. The woman said last week that she wants to know more about Jesus.

Toalston is on the staff of FMB.

Book reviews

MUD ON MY SHOES (The story of a Peculiar Preacher); M. R. Megginson; W. A. Megginson Foundation, P. O. Box 834, Semmes, AL 36575, (205) 649-8796, publisher; 151 pp., \$8.00.

According to the foreword by Fred Wolfe, Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, *Mud on My Shoes* will encourage a pastor to be a more faithful servant of God; it will encourage a layperson to pray for his pastor more. "... the things that impressed me most about Ray Megginson," writes Wolfe, "are the simplicity of his faith, the depth of his prayer life, and the sincerity with which he serves his Lord."

Drawing on his mother's diary and his experiences in rural or smalltown churches, where there was always mud: red clay in Clarke County, Ala., and Neshoba County, Miss.; black gumbo mud in the Mississippi Delta, making Saturday nights a time to clean and shine shoes, Megginson has written an autobiography of a "peculiar" preacher. The 12 chapters of the book are interestingly divided: Parents, Perception, Pardon, Partner, Progeny, Preparation, People, Places, Prayer, Pursuit, Preaching, and Product — parents who gave him a rich legacy of faith; pardon and a call to preach; the anointing power of the Holy Spirit; preaching, "the great love of my life," and the poem of his mother on which Brother Megginson has based his life, "I've just one life; 'twill soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last." — IBM

MINISTERS AS LEADERS; Robert D. Dale, Broadman Press, 1984; 132 pages.

Robert Dale has been professor of pastoral leadership and church ministries at Southeastern Seminary since 1977. He has served in the Church Administration Dept. at the Sunday School Board.

In the course of this book, Dale gives valuable guidelines and helpful suggestions which can help the minister create his leadership style. Dale discusses many various topics which relate to leadership that can be applied to the church arena.

Dale begins with a basic foundation for each congregation. Each church is autonomous, consequently having many different personalities. Throughout the first section he gives various examples of leadership styles, roots, and some basic beliefs from both the Old Testament and New Testament leaders.

Dale continues in the next section discussing "Leaders, Followers, and Consequences." He relates your own leadership style as applied to people and craftsmanship.

Dale sums up the book illustrating certain leadership styles within the church. He begins to show the idea of team building and being able to interact with your people.

This book, which is in the Broadman Leadership Series, would be helpful in creating the leadership style to grow the church. — Reviewed by Dwayne Kelly, pastor, Rockhill Church, Mt. Olive.

Missionaries leave Liberia

By Donald D. Martin

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries Ed and Fran Laughridge confirmed Aug. 15 that they had evacuated Liberia two days before, after new safety concerns arose from a possible move into their area by a west African peace-keeping force.

The Laughridges and their son Edward, 20, left their mission station in Mano River early Aug. 13 and crossed the Liberian border by jeep into Sierra Leone.

The family was prepared to walk into Sierra Leone if roads proved impassable, or if rebel soldiers confiscated their vehicle. Mrs. Laughridge, of Great Falls, S.C., told a missionary in Ivory Coast via radio Aug. 12. Her husband is from Rock Hill, S.C.

Once in Sierra Leone, the Laughridges drove about 300 miles to

the capital, Freetown, where they contacted mission officials in Ivory Coast by radio Aug. 15.

The Laughridges did not say how long they plan to stay in Freetown, but they do not expect to return to Liberia until they talk further with mission officials, Mrs. Laughridge said.

The Laughridges had wanted to stay on in Mano River, even after rebel troops detained the family for six days. Rebels of the National Patriotic Front had refused to let the Laughridges leave the area or, for several days, to communicate by radio with missionaries in Ivory Coast. A rebel commander later told the Laughridges that the detainment had been a mistake and they were free to come and go as they pleased.

However, Mano River — 80 miles northwest of the Liberian capital of Monrovia — is now believed to be

situated in one of the areas where west African peace-keeping troops may enter Liberia, said Bill Bullington, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's area director for west Africa.

"It is our understanding that this is the route (through Mano River) that a peace-keeping force will take into Liberia," Bullington said. "We don't know what could happen there. So there was concern for their well-being and they were encouraged to come out, at least temporarily."

With the Laughridges' evacuation, Earl Williams of West Monroe, La., is the only Southern Baptist missionary remaining in Liberia. Williams has returned for a short stay at his mission station in Yekepa, where fighting forced him and his family to flee in late March.

Martin writes for FMB.

Devotional

"A merry heart"

By Benny Still

Several years ago I came across a verse of scripture that has since become my byline. It is Proverbs 17:22 which states: "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine."

Growing up in Mississippi in the 1950s and 1960s, I witnessed the beginnings of slow but sure change in our thinking about family living, hypocrisy in the church, and traditional politics. We didn't have a lot of the material things of this world; but we had each other and we learned to laugh at life, each other, and the adverse circumstances we faced. I don't mean to imply that laughter is the solution to all of life's problems, but I do think that laughter helps us to smooth down the rough edges that might otherwise do irreparable damage to our self-esteem.

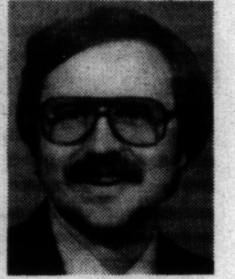
At some time in our lives, we will all "feel sick" about something. It may be that we will be physically ill and feel sick, or maybe something will happen in our family, church, or community that will give us that queasy feeling. And just maybe that queasy feeling will eventually grow within us until we are stressed out and less able to cope with the day-to-day pressures we face. In Tal D. Bonham's book, *Humor: God's Gift*, he quotes Robert Louis Stevenson as giving some suggestions for those who "think themselves sick." Some of those statements are:

- 1) Make up your mind to be happy — learn to find pleasure in simple things.
- 2) Make the best of circumstances. No one has everything, and everyone has something of sorrow.
- 3) Don't take yourself too seriously.
- 4) Don't let criticism worry you: you can't please everybody.
- 5) Don't let your neighbors set your standards: be yourself.
- 6) Don't borrow trouble. Imaginary things are harder to bear than actual ones.
- 7) Keep busy at something. A very busy person never has time to be unhappy.

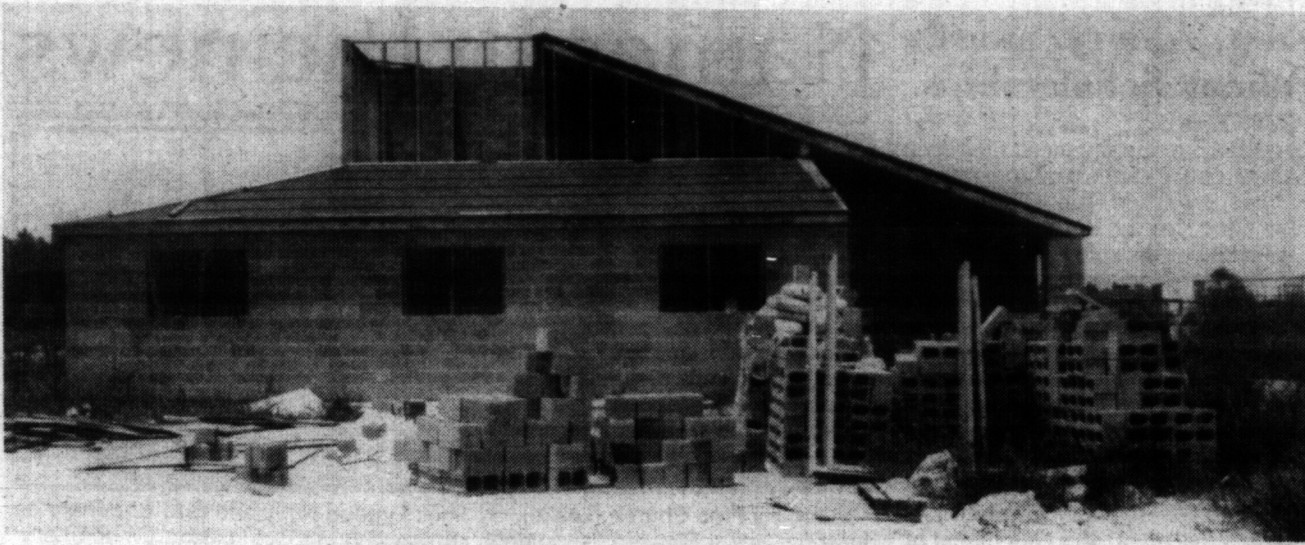
Those suggestions make a lot of sense, don't they? James, the half-brother of Jesus, wrote: "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials," (James 1:2). Bonham further states that, as Christians, if we are to find joy in adverse circumstances, we can consider our stress to be joy because, in this experience, you or someone else may gain an unshakable faith in God. (James 1:3). Or, in such a stress experience, we can consider it joy; because through this experience, you or someone else may learn the power of prayer. (James 1:5-6). And finally, we may consider our stress to be joy because through this experience, you or someone else may find the meaning of life at its best (James 1:12). Only when we face life "in Christ," do we really understand life at its best.

Psychologists have proven that Allen Funt's "Smile, you're on candid camera" philosophy has healing merit to clear clouded minds, to open the closed recesses of our thinking, and to fill the emptiness of broken hearts. So, perhaps it would do us all good to remember the words of Solomon: "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine," and dose ourselves up for the days ahead!

Still is minister of music and youth, Woodville Church, and pastor, Fort Adams Mission.



Still



Help needed in truckers' ministry

Jackson County Baptists are building a place where they can minister to truck drivers. Their partially completed building is going up beside J.J.'s Truck Stop at an I-10 exit on the eastern edge of Pascagoula. A few volunteer teams have already contributed labor. Two teams are expected to spend some time

there this fall. "We need more volunteer helpers," said Ernest Sadler, director of missions, Jackson County Association. "If we could get the place finished, we might begin our work with the truckers by January."

Family in Kuwait calm in crisis

HUTCHINSON, Kan. (BP) — Maurice Graham spent part of his 41st birthday Aug. 14 relaxing by the pool with his family in Kuwait City, Kuwait.

Outside the U.S. Embassy compound in Kuwait City, where the Southern Baptist family is staying, Iraqi soldiers patrolled the streets while American troops continued to pour into neighboring Saudi Arabia.

Graham, his wife, Laurie, and their sons, Peter, 13, and Aaron, 10, are

among the approximately 3,000 Americans trapped in Kuwait following the Iraqi invasion there Aug. 2. The Grahams, Southern Baptist workers in Kuwait, have taken shelter in the U.S. Embassy compound in Kuwait City. Graham is from Shelbyville, Tenn. Mrs. Graham is from Hutchinson, Kan.

A U.S. State Department official contacted Mrs. Graham's mother, Margaret Nuzum, Aug. 14 with the first direct message from the couple

since an Aug. 2 phone call. The report was that "they're eating well, they're swimming in the embassy pool, and they're feeling very safe in the embassy," said Mrs. Nuzum, of Hutchinson.

Mrs. Nuzum wasn't too surprised to get such an upbeat message from her daughter and son-in-law. According to family and friends, remaining calm amid crises is something the Grahams do well.

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

Student of Stanford

Editor:

The Baptist Student Union at Stanford University would like to contact students entering Stanford in the fall. We're available to provide rides from the airport or to help students move into the dorms. The BSU has been an anchor for many students as they are dealing with the intense academic environment at Stanford. Starting out the quarter with Christian friends can make a tremendous difference.

Pastors, parents, friends — please let us know of any students coming to Stanford. Send us their names, addresses, and phone numbers so that we can get in touch with them prior to the fall semester. You can contact us at P. O. Box 9503, Stanford, CA 94309. (415) 949-3972.

Margo McGregor, BSU director
Stanford University
Stanford, Calif.

Omitted in picture

Editor:

I wanted to write to let you know that in the Aug. 2, 1990, issue picturing the "Summer Staff at Gulfshore," a person's name was omitted from the ones listed.

The young person's name is August Martens, Woodville, Miss. who attends New Orleans Seminary. August was one of our summer staff and should have been in the picture.

Frank Simmons
Gulfshore

Bus needed

Editor:

I have a request to make from some of you who may be able to help. We are a small Southern Baptist Church located in north San Diego County in Southern California. We are a growing church short on funds due to all the ministries God has given to us!

We are in desperate need of a late model van or bus in which to transport rapidly growing senior adult, youth, and children's groups. If you would like to be a part of this outreach which includes Lebanese, Nigerian, Filipino, and Spanish people, please write or call us. Also, if you have the ability and desire to provide for this need, we will be very willing to provide for the pick-up and removal of a vehicle.

We need to provide transportation for these the Lord has placed in our fields, and we appreciate your response and your prayers as we continue to seek ways to minister to all for our Lord!

Sincerely,
Lonnie Johnson, pastor
Broadway Baptist Church
Escondido, CA 92026

No place for debt

Editor:

Included in the Guest Opinion column in the Aug. 16 issue of the Baptist Record was a commendable editorial in support of the Cooperative Program written by Herschel H. Hobbs. Indeed, the Cooperative Program should be viewed as a "fellowship" in which more than 37,000 churches cooperate in the task of

reaching the world for Christ.

However, I must voice my disagreement on one segment of Mr. Hobbs' editorial. In closing he commends the North Phoenix Baptist Church for its effort to make good on a pledge of \$1 million each year, rather than giving a percentage. In each month when the receipts did not provide enough money for the pledge, the church borrowed from a bank to make up the difference. Mr. Hobbs praised the church for its willingness to borrow money for the sake of missions.

While in no way will I question the good intent of this church's actions, I must disagree with their willingness to enter into debt. A dangerous trend is developing among both churches and individuals as they enter into debt with little or no hesitation. While, I agree, there is no place in the Bible where debt is strictly forbidden, likewise there is no place in the Bible where it is encouraged. In fact, in every instance where the debt issue is raised in scriptures, it is advised to avoid it entirely.

I have often wondered what we could do with all of the money tied up in interest payments from loans to build new buildings for churches or new cars for individuals. That money could be used to make sound investments that would only increase our cash flow and of cause — reaching the world for Christ. This seems to be the most sensible and most scriptural approach to handling our finances. Now, go thou and do likewise!

Ted Clem
Hattiesburg

The minister discovered shortly before the garden party that he had failed to invite an old lady parishioner and hastily phoned her an invitation. "It's too late," she answered, "I have already prayed for rain."

Chaplaincy conference set

The Annual Leadership Conference of the Mississippi Baptist Chaplains Association will be held at Camp Garaywa on Sept. 14-15. Registration will begin Friday at 4:30 p.m. The conference will conclude Saturday at noon.

Royce Williams, administrative assistant, Chaplaincy Division, Home Mission Board, will bring an update on chaplaincy news and events. The program will also offer music by Eric McNair, minister of music, McLaurin Heights Church, Pearl; laughter with John Brewley, director of recreation, Broadmoor Church, Jackson; and Bible study with Frank Robbins, biblical studies, Mississippi College.

For more information call Richard Brogan, consultant, Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, at 968-3800.



Williams

Your friends may lie to you, your mirror deceive you, but a flight of stairs will be brutally frank.

Journal, Helper, Utah

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North Columbia Church participates in Mexico project

Members of North Columbia Church, Columbia (Marion), left June 15 on a mission trip to Grace Baptist Church, in Nariz, Mexico. The mission team consisted of Ralph "Bo" and Elizabeth Prine, Renee and Margaret Prine, Gerald and Annette Broom, Stephanie Brewer, Clifford "Chip" and Ann Brunney, Betty Brunney, Angie Blanton, Bill Pachmayr, Brandie and Forrest Pachmayr, Billy Paul Cooper, Todd Pittman, Lee Speer, Erica Wise, and Jeremy Robbins. This was the second year for 13 of the 19 team members to participate in this ministry.

Upon arriving in Nariz, they were welcomed by friends they learned to love and were able to witness to last year. Since last summer, the church has called a full-time pastor, Jose'

Luis Heraldez.

Heraldez and his wife Kally have two small children. North Columbia is one of the many churches in the surrounding area that helps support Heraldez and his family. This church is totally dependent on the money they receive from Mississippi churches each month.

The men did construction projects on the pastor's home, and helped construct and repair several homes for needy families. The women and youths held Vacation Bible School every day. After VBS, a village witness was conducted. Each night, a testimony service was held before the preaching service.

If any church or individual would like to support this ministry, call Bill Pachmayr in Columbia, 736-1108.



Providence Church members who participated in a service honoring veterans are, back row left to right: Pastor Arthur Hardin, Agnes Wilson, Sandra Wilson, Terri Delancy, Brian Stanphill, Christy Stone, Jennifer Stanphill, Kristy Delancy, Lillian Turner, Candy Wilson. Front row, Marsha Wigginton, Melissa Wigginton, and Hank Pitts.

Providence youth honor veterans

On July 1, the youth of Providence Church, Tremont (Itawamba) honored men in the church who have served and who are serving in the Armed Forces.

The Youth Choir under the direction of Sandra Wilson and Lillian Turner sang "God Bless America," "America," "Battle Hymn of the Republic," and "God Bless the U.S.A." Terri Delancy and Christy Stone gave a short summary of each veteran's tour of duty. Seven men were honored at Providence.

"At this time of the year, we celebrate Independence Day. While we are busy with family cookouts and shooting fireworks, we often forget the sacrifices made by many individuals

who served in the Armed Forces and died while fighting to keep our country free," said Terri Delancy.

"Let's remember these men, and the ones who died in combat, as we celebrate this holiday each year," said Stone.

The program ended with the congregation's singing "The Star Spangled Banner." Arthur Hardin then gave an appropriate message for the program.

Youth who participated in the program were: Marsha and Melissa Wigginton, Candy Wilson, Jennifer and Brian Stanphill, Billy Dale Parker, Hank Pitts, Christy Stone, and Terri Delancy.

First, Amory, awards Palmer Scholarships

Ron Kirkland, pastor of First Church, Amory, announced this week that the church scholarship committee has awarded funds from the Lawrence and Louise Palmer Memorial Scholarship to Scott Forbus and Regina Harlow to assist them toward the completion of their degrees from New Orleans Seminary, and Southwestern Seminary, respectively.

Scott is the husband of the former Dena Weed and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Forbus of Amory. Regina, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Harlow of Wren, will complete her master's degree at the conclusion of the fall semester, 1990.

Forbus is preparing for the ministry while Harlow's area of concentration is the mission field.

Since the establishment of the Palmer Memorial Scholarship Fund in 1983, approximately \$30,000 has been awarded to six recipients to assist them financially toward degrees which prepare them for a church-related vocation.

Series of conferences set to help churches in video ministries

"Maximizing Video's Potential in Training," is the title of a series of conferences to be held in Corinth, Greenville, and Natchez in September.

The conferences are designed to help churches in developing video ministries, how to set up video for training sessions, and will offer "100 uses of video in religious education and church programming," according to Farrell Blankenship, director of the Department of Broadcast Services, which is sponsoring the event, along with the church media library program of the MBCB and the Sunday School Board.

The three sites for the conferences are First Church, Corinth, on Sept. 17; Calvary Church, Greenville, Sept. 18; and Morgantown Church, Natchez, Sept. 20. Each will take place from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Each conference will have as leader Chip Turner, director of media services for the Louisiana Baptist Convention. He is author of the book "The Church Video Answerbook."



Turner

Names in the news



Standing Pine Church (Leake), ordained Lyndon Kelly and Bud Shephard as deacons, July 1. Pictured, left to right, are David Grumbach, pastor; Lyndon Kelly; Bud Shephard; and Michael Weeks, director of missions.



George W. Gordon retired on July 1 after serving 19 years as music director at Hebron Church, Lauderdale Association. He and his wife, Ruby, were honored on July 8 with a dinner. He received a certificate from Tommy Jones, pastor, and a money tree. Pictured, from left, are Jones and George and Ruby Gordon.



Providence Church, Bolivar County, presented O. R. Gladden Jr. with a plaque, June 24. Gladden has served the Lord and his church as deacon for 31 years. Pastor Eugene Walden (right) presented the plaque to Gladden.

Bethesda Church, (Hinds-Madison) licensed Joe Daniels to the gospel ministry Aug. 5. Daniels is currently serving the church as minister of music and youth. Rick Atwood is pastor.

LIMA (EBPS/WEF) — Carlos Garcia, a Baptist pastor in Peru, was elected second vice-president of the country in June elections.

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William Truett Broadus dies

William Truett Broadus, 66, died Saturday, Aug. 11 at Veteran's Hospital in Jackson. Funeral services were held Monday, Aug. 13 at First Church, McComb, where Broadus was a member at the time of his death and burial followed at Hollywood Cemetery.

A native of Clinton, Broadus had pastored many churches throughout the southern Mississippi area for 35 years, until failing health forced him

to retire. He is remembered for his singing and his chalk art, in addition to his preaching.

Broadus is survived by his wife, Annette; his son, James, of Rock Hill, S.C.; his daughter, Judy Bullock of McComb; his brother, Lars Broadus of McComb; four sisters, Annie Bell of Columbia, Osie Sartin of McComb, Mona Nolf of Escatawpa; and Stella Anderson of McComb; and three grandchildren.

Revival results

Topisaw Church (Lincoln): Aug. 5-10; J. Frank Smith, pastor, Zion Hill, Wesson, evangelist; Kenny Peavey, Edna Church, Columbia, music; nine professions of faith, many rededications; David Moree, pastor.

Rocky Point Church, Carthage (Leake): Aug. 5-9; Bruce Gill, Hammond, La., evangelist; Bobby and Lollie Ready, Baton Rouge, La.,

music; 11 professions of faith; 18 rededications; and two by letter; Robert Parish, pastor.

Pleasant Hill Church, Ashland (Benton-Tippah): July 22-25; B. Gray Allison, Memphis, Tenn., evangelist; Clyde Cranford, West Memphis, Ark., music; four professions of faith; five rededications; five other decisions; Jeff Ginn, pastor.

Just for the Record



FBC Lexington (Holmes) celebrated an "Old-Fashioned Sunday" recently. Members dressed in period clothes, and the church was decorated with quilts, lanterns, dolls, a spinning wheel, telephone, and portraits. After the morning worship,

a covered dish meal was served in the fellowship hall, then members returned to the sanctuary to sing old hymns. A special offering was also taken for the purchase of a new bus. Michael O'Brien is pastor. Chuck McMinn is minister of music.



First Church, Magee recently held a Missions Promotion Night, the focal point of which was an Acteens Coronation service.



First Church, Magee recently held a Missions Promotion Night at which RAs and GAs were recognized.

Harperville Church (Scott) children's choir, under the direction of Tonja Madison, presented, "The Greatest Show on Heaven and Earth," by Dennis and Nan Allen, for the evening worship service July 29. The church requested a repeat performance which was given Aug. 5.

First Church, Jackson, is sponsoring its 5th Annual Run for the Son 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, Aug. 25 at 8 a.m. Proceeds and donations of food and clothing by participants will go to Crestwood Baptist Mission Center to assist the needy.

There will be over 15 age divisions for children through senior adults. Over 500 runners are expected for this years race. T-shirts will be awarded to all participants.

The race begins and finishes at First Church Family Life Center, where all pre-race registration takes place. Call 949-1945 for details.

East Heights Church, Tupelo (Lee): Aug. 26, 11 a.m.; Joseph "Butch" Knight, Kosciusko, guest speaker; dinner on the grounds at noon; afternoon singing at 1:30; James O. Hyche, Carbon Hill, Ala., guest musician; no evening service; Kermit Brann, interim pastor.

Holly Grove Church, Braxton: Aug. 26; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; singing at 11 a.m.; covered dish luncheon in fellowship hall at noon; singing and fellowship at 1:30 p.m.; Roger Lee, pastor; Pete Bates, minister of music.

Woolmarket Church, Biloxi (Gulf Coast): Evangelistic Crusade; Sept. 9-13; Scott Camp of Del City, Okla., evangelist; M. L. Faler, pastor.

Popps Ferry Church, Biloxi (Gulf Coast) held a ground breaking ceremony July 22 at 2 p.m. for a new education building and fellowship hall. Participating in the ceremony were: Don Snipes, Lee Chandler, Roger Burdette, and Allen and Johnnie Groves. Don Snipes is pastor of Popps Ferry.

Revival dates

Shalom Church, Newhebron, (Lawrence): Aug. 26-30; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Robert Sones, pastor, D'Lo Church, evangelist; Ray Hodges, pastor.

Spring Hill (Marshall): Aug. 26-29; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Troy Defer, New Hope (Lafayette) preaching; Jimmy T. Smith, pastor.

Shiloh Church, Mantachie (Itawamba): Aug. 26-30; Sunday, 6:30; weekdays, 7 p.m.; Bill Wages, North Corinth Church, Corinth, evangelist; Ronald Harris, pastor.

Homecomings

First Church of Glendale, Hattiesburg (Lebanon): Aug. 26; Billy Skinner, former pastor, guest speaker; Dallas Rayborn, former music director, music; Sunday School, 9:45; worship, 11; dinner on the grounds followed by an afternoon service at 1:30.

Cason Church (Monroe): Aug. 26; 45th anniversary and 15th year of bus ministry; services, Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship, 10:30 a.m., lunch at noon; Jim Manley, pastor.

Pilgrims Rest Church (Panola): Sept. 2; Sunday School, 10 a.m. James West, former pastor, 11 a.m. message; lunch served at noon in fellowship hall; Jerry Smith, pastor.

Training sessions planned for children's choir leadership

Baptist churches in six Mississippi cities are hosting a series of area preschool/children's choir leadership training sessions.

On Sept. 6, Temple Church, Hattiesburg, will host the first meeting, 6 p.m.-9:30 p.m. On Sept. 8, two will take place: at First Church, Biloxi, and at Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson, each from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. And the last three will take place on Sept. 15 at First Church, Grenada; First Church, Philadelphia; and at Harrisburg Church, Tupelo. Each of these will be from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Children's choir contract consultant

for the MCB Church Music Department, Sarah Talley, said these leader training meetings will offer methods and materials, based primarily on activity teaching. They will demonstrate October units of the teaching curriculum from the Sunday School Board, she said. These sessions are for leaders of choirs for preschoolers, for those in grades 1-3 (Music Makers), for grades 4-6 (Young Musicians), and for combined choirs for grades 1-6.

A \$3.50 registration fee will be collected at the door for each session.

Rankin Baptists open second marriage counseling center

Rankin County Baptists have recently opened Crossroads Counseling Center, and now offer two marriage and family counseling offices in Rankin County, one on Highway 80 East near Wal-Mart and the other at the reservoir according to Perry Sanderford, director and staff counselor.

The office located at 5611 Highway

80 East is centrally located and reaches the largest metropolitan area of Rankin County, Sanderford said. The other office located at the Reservoir at 101 Spillway Road (near the intersection of Old Fannin and Spillway Roads) reaches an area in which the future growth is expected to double in the next ten years he added.

Staff changes

Pleasant Hill Church, Ashland (Benton-Tippah) has called Heath Joiner of West Memphis, Ark. as minister of music and youth, effective immediately. A native of Southaven, Joiner was educated at Blue Mountain College and Mid-America Seminary. He previously served at Peoples Church, Ripley (Benton-Tippah).

Ron Simpson has accepted the call to pastor Walnut Church (Benton-Tippah). Simpson resigned from Temple Church, Union County, effective July 24. He served there as minister of music and youth while attending Blue Mountain College. His first Sunday at Walnut Church was Aug. 19, the church's homecoming.

First, Starkville has called Tom Daniel as minister of youth/students, effective June 10. His previous place of service was Immanuel Church, Little Rock, Ark. A native of Jackson, he is a graduate of Mississippi State University and New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife, Lisa, have three sons. R. Raymond Lloyd is pastor of First Church, Starkville.

Linwood Church, Union, has called Lee Hudson as pastor. He attended Batesville High School, Northwest Mississippi Junior College, New Orleans Seminary, Luther Rice Seminary, and International Bible Institution and Seminary where he received B.D., master of theology, and director of theology degrees.

He was ordained by Good Hope Church in January, 1962. He goes to Linwood from Freney Church in Leake County. Hudson was moderator of Leake Association and was listed in Who's Who in Mississippi under Religion.

During his pastorate at Freney the Sunday School enrollment increased from 100 to 402 and attendance increased from 74 to 208. The church was presented the "Eagle" award in February, 1989.

Black Hawk Church, Coila (Carroll) has called George A. Mims as pastor. Mims, wife Janice, and children Beth, Chris, David, and Tim live in Sidon, where he was ordained at New Shiloh Church on Sunday, Aug. 5.

Zion Hill Church, Mississippi Association, has called Byron Wilkinson as pastor. He will be attending New Orleans Seminary. His address will be Route 1, Box 172, Liberty, MS 39645.

Leroy Stuart has been called as minister of music and youth at Antioch Church in Florence, effective Aug. 26. Stuart previously served on the staff at Edwards Church for 12 years. Barry Ward is pastor of Antioch Church.

John L. Walker has accepted the call from First Church, Winona as pastor. He and his family moved to Winona from First Church, Lucedale, where he has pastored for 13 years.

Ken Scheider has been called as youth director on a part-time basis. He is a student at Mississippi College.

John Sproles has accepted Peeler Memorial Church in Attala Association. Sproles is a resident of Kosciusko. He follows Danny Purser who recently resigned to work with a funeral home in Carthage.

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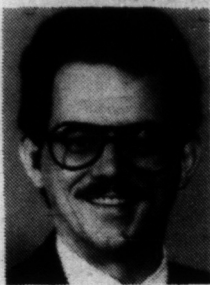
First Church, Coffeeville (Yalobusha) has called Richard Williams as minister of music and youth, effective August 1. Williams previously served as minister of music and youth at First Church, Eudora. A native of Senatobia, he has studied at Northwest Miss. Junior College and the University of Mississippi.

Tim Ellison has resigned the position of pastor at Unity Church, effective July 31, to attend seminary classes.

Doers of the word, not hearers only

By Bob Rogers
James 1:22-2:8

Benjamin Franklin said, "Many have quarreled about religion who never practiced it." In this Sunday's lesson, James 1:22-2:8, James emphasizes the wisdom of practical Christian living.



Rogers

The stress James places on good works, especially in James 2:14, bothers many Baptists, for we believe salvation is by God's grace through our faith, not by our works (Ephesians 2:8-9). Some see James as a contradiction of Paul's theology of grace. Paul and James do not contradict one another; they complement one another. Paul spoke against those who tried to make works the way of salvation instead of grace. James spoke against those who tried to divorce good works from the Christian life. Grace is the root of salvation, and works are the fruit of salvation. Paul himself said in Ephesians 2:10 that good works are God's plan for Christians once they are saved.

But what are these works? Many Baptists

UNIFORM

behave as if the Christian life is comprised of faithful church attendance to hear sermons. James warns that hearing is not enough: "But be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (vs. 22). The person who hears only is like someone who sees himself in a mirror; he instantly forgets what he looks like (vss. 23-24). On Monday he does not act like the same person who was in a pew on Sunday.

One of the main problems for Christians is our tongues. James says the Christian's life is "vain" if one "bridleth not his tongue" (vs. 26). I'm not a horseman, but once I was riding a horse that went into a wild lope because I didn't know to rein in the bridle. Christians who fail to control their tongues wreak havoc (see James 3:6).

After the negative warning in verse 26, James recommends positive actions in verse 27 to display "pure religion." The word for "religion" describes outward forms of religious practice. It is not a summary of the essence of faith, but a practical example of that faith.

As much as we Baptists emphasize church

attendance, tithing, Bible reading, and prayer, we may be shocked to find none of these mentioned in verse 27. Instead, James says, "To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." The word "visit" in the King James Version translates a word that means to "come to help" (Genesis 50:24, Luke 7:16). This is not a complete list of practical Christian activities, but it shows that the Christian is at the same time to be involved in easing the hurts of society without being polluted by the values of that society.

In Chapter 2, James continues the theme of Christian living by dealing with the issue of prejudice. "My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons" (vs. 1). God is no respecter of persons (Matthew 22:16, Acts 10:34, Romans 2:11). The verb means "face receiving." Isn't that what prejudice is, to judge someone in advance based on his face rather than his heart?

James gives the example of favoring the rich man over the poor man in church (vss. 2-3). I'm reminded of the Joe McKeever cartoon in which the pastor announces from the pulpit, "The owner of the Ferrari parked across the street has left his lights on. The ushers are asked to

wait for his return before receiving today's offering."

Verses 5-7 point out that the rich are usually the ones who oppress the church, while the poor are usually "rich in faith." Perhaps someone would interrupt James at this point to say that he is just obeying the commandment to love his neighbor when he loves the rich man in church. James replies in verse 8 that if one really keeps that commandment he does well, but in verse 9 he warns, "But if ye have respect of persons, ye commit sin."

Questions to consider:

1. What did you hear in last week's sermon? What did you do because of it?

2. When you hear gossip and negative talk, do you pass it along or try to change the subject to something that builds up the other person?

3. Does your church minister to the needy? Could you start a ministry such as a clothes closet or a food closet?

4. Are there any persons who would be unwelcome in your church based on their appearance? If so, how can you change this attitude?

Bob Rogers is pastor, Calvary Church, Gloster.

Love one another in Jesus Christ

By Jim Smith

1 John 3:11-18; 4:7-12, 19-21

If a group of people were each given a piece of paper with several dots on it used to represent people, and were told to draw a circle



Smith

representing love around as many of the dots as they wanted to, you would do no doubt get a variety of responses. Some would draw a circle around only one dot and would additionally make sure their circle did not touch any of the other dots with its perimeter. People such as this are very self-centered. The only person each loves is himself. What

is more unfortunate is that many people do not even love themselves. Other people would draw a circle as large as possible to take in as many dots as they could. They would take in the world, if possible, to share their love with everyone. Edwin Markham wrote a short poem about circles of love that I believe should express our Christian response to others. Let me share it with you.

LIFE AND WORK

He drew a circle that shut me out,
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But Love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle that took him in!

The character of God includes attributes such as omnipotence, holiness and righteousness; but I believe the greatest defining quality of God is that of love. John, the disciple whom Jesus loved and who loved Jesus, makes that point very strongly in this week's scripture passage. The agape love expressed by Jesus Christ is the selfless giving of one person for another with the only concern of the lover being for the welfare of the beloved. There is no demand for returned affection or expectancy of any benefit to be received on the part of the lover. It is a love born of God.

Jesus Christ is the fullest expression of agape love. He died to pay the price of the sins of the sum of mankind; for all who have ever lived in the past, for all who are alive today, and for all who may live in the future. The price has been

paid in full without any demand that anyone ever come to him or even thank him. In John 15:13 Jesus said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Jesus would have us move beyond the love that we have for our families which the Greeks expressed by the term *storge*, beyond brotherly love which the Greeks expressed by the term *philia*, and still further beyond the intimate love of giving and receiving expressed between a husband and wife which the Greeks termed *eros*, unto the selflessness of his agape love.

While we may never be called upon by God to lay down our lives for our faith or our brothers and sisters in Christ, we are called upon many times to meet their material and physical needs. John makes it very clear in today's passage that Christians have that responsibility. If we shirk that responsibility we bring into question our commitment to Christ. Jesus said in John 13:35, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

We must move beyond the expression of love that is often evident when we gather in his church to worship, to the point that we practice

that love on a daily basis Monday through Sunday. While some may argue that our love is to be expressed only to brothers and sisters in Christ, one has only to look at the example we have in the life of Jesus to know that we are to love all people as he did. Christ has reminded us that it is easy to love those who are members of our own families, and all Christians are children in the family of God. We must grow to the point where we can reach out and love the unlovable. I believe this is the greatest test of our Christian faith; we love the poor, the dirty, the downcast, the alcoholic, the drug addict, the criminal, or whoever the unlovable is for us.

Once we have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior it is easy to love him because he loved us while we were still sinners and died for us. He made no prerequisites, he asked us no questions, he simply loved us and accepted us where we were for what we were. We must do the same with others if Christ lives within us, and if we are controlled by his nature. This takes a conscious effort on our part. We must check on our progress on a regular basis. I ask you today, how is your love (agape) life through Jesus Christ?

Smith is pastor, Mt. Gilead Church, Meridian.

Saul rejected and David anointed

By Lannie Wilbourn

1 Sam. 15:22-24; 27-28; 16:11-14; 17:50-51

Does God ask us to do things which are impossible for us? Does God ask us to do things which are wrong? Saul could have made a case for "yes" to both these questions. Samuel relayed God's message for Saul to "totally destroy" the Amalekites. Exodus 17:14 records God's promise to "blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven." God is sovereign and can send judgment at any time he chooses. God is righteous and just. His judgment is consistent with his



Wilbourn

character whether we understand it or not. Saul was to carry out God's command. He disobeyed by keeping "everything that was good" (15:9, NIV). Saul's sin did not remain hidden. "You may be sure that your sin will find you out" is the Lord's word in Numbers 32:23. When confronted with his sin Saul used the ancient and modern technique of "passing the buck." The shift in the use of the pronouns in 15:13-15 is typical. First, Saul puts heavy emphasis on "I" when he thought Samuel would commend him for good work. Samuel points out his sin and Saul changes his tune with, "The soldiers . . . they," and then with "but we."

BIBLE BOOK

it is a typical "passing the buck" tune we have heard and used ourselves. Disobedience is not diminished by spreading it around.

Saul then tried to sell Samuel on a self-serving scheme that the best animals were kept for sacrifices. It was a pathetic response from a man chosen by God to be king. Saul was rejected because of his disobedience. Samuel's reply (15:22-24) was a verse of Hebrew poetry which contained a theme also found in Isaiah 1:10-11, 13; Hosea 6:6; Micah 6:6-8; and Mark 12:28-34, "To obey is better than sacrifice." Sacrifice is the external expression of the internal truth in the life of the believer. A sacrificial offering given today expresses the truth that: God asked for it; God can be trusted; and God is worthy. The forms of sacrifice have changed but the faith it expresses has not. God is faithful.

Samuel became depressed as he reflected on Saul's failure as king (15:34-16:1). Their relationship was not broken. God wanted Samuel to know that he wasn't finished with his people, though Saul was finished as king. "Quit looking back, start looking ahead" was God's word to Samuel. David was yet to be anointed. A new lesson for life was to be learned (16:7b), "man sees the eyes, but God sees the heart."

Saul was tall, handsome, and of age. David was handsome but the youngest son of Jesse. But he was God's choice. God provided the power to be king as "the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power." Saul had received this gift also but the Spirit departed from him when David was anointed. From that day on, David was powerful and Saul was tormented. The phrase "an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him" raises questions. Was this a demon sent from God as punishment? Was this evil spirit a messenger from God? Did God create an inner spirit of restlessness within Saul? What does it mean? Whenever the Spirit of God departs, anything that takes his place is something other than God. We cannot do the work of God without the Spirit of God. Our attempts will bring frustration and confusion.

David showed his heart for God when he found Saul's army trembling in fear of Goliath

of Gath. This 9'6" warrior was leading the Philistines in representative battle. The warrior heroes would fight rather than the whole army. Israel had no heroes at that time. David's challenge was not from military strength or skill. Rather, it was in spiritual strength that the shepherd boy challenged the giant. David's objective was not selfish glory but to fulfill the ancient covenant God made with Abraham, "and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel" (17:46b NIV). David's faith gave rise to great courage for the crisis of the hour. God, who had chosen him, was "the living God" (17:26b), who "delivered me . . . and . . . will deliver me" (17:37). David knew God as "the Lord Almighty" (17:45), and he would obey him. Let his church bear the same testimony and have courage!

Wilbourn is pastor, Pinelake Church, Brandon.

Mississippi Baptist activities

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Aug. 27 | Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Meeting; Baptist Building; 2 p.m.
Associational Officers Training; FBC, Brandon; 5:45-9:15 p.m. (PD) |
| Aug. 28 | Associational Officers training; FBC, Winona; 5:45-9:15 p.m. (PD) |
| Aug. 30 | Associational Officers Training; FBC, Columbia; 5:45-9:15 p.m. (PD) |

THE VILLAGE VIEW

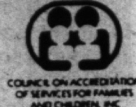


The Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

P. O. Box 27,
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242

ACCREDITED



Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

April 1, 1990 -
May 31, 1990

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Centerville BC
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Mr. Robert Yarbrough
Mrs. Mable Grantham
Mrs. Fannie Phillips
Mrs. George Hawkins
Mrs. Earl C. Yates, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Yates
Mr. J. L. Young
Mrs. Jane P. Ireland

June 1, 1990 -
June 30, 1990

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Mr. & Mrs. Ted Clark
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Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence
Kenneth & Scott
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Mrs. Geneva Williamson
George Alderson
Mr. & Mrs. Delbert L.
Haynes

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Kirkendall
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Mrs. W. A. Moser
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Mr. John Anders
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Robert Edwin Anderson
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Temple BC, Hattiesburg
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Mrs. T. B. Guinn
J. W. Blalock
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Malone
Mr. & Mrs. F. B. Blalock
Ms. LaDeane R. Dowdle
Mr. Bill Blalock
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Boone
Mrs. Fannie Jane Blalock
Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Gibson
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Mr. Woodrow Bobo
A Friend
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Mr. & Mrs. Sam Dribben
Mrs. Georgina McNair Branch
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Mr. & Mrs. Tom Rice
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Mrs. Willie Lee Byrd
Mrs. Fern M. Lyter
Ms. Ann Lott Denton
Mary Lou Lott
Mrs. Janie Calcote
Mrs. Lavelle Holloway
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Curtis Reese Carson
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Mr. Morris Caston
Paul & Linda Albritton
Ben, Frances & Christine
Turney
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Mr. & Mrs. Lindsey
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Brodie S. Crump
Mr. & Mrs. Henry L. Carson
Ms. Ann Beck Collier
Krease Cunningham
Graeber Brothers Inc.
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Bro. James E. Drane
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Mr. & Mrs. Harlon Ellingburg
Rev. & Mrs. Gerald Castilo
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Mr. Herman Evans
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Como BC
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+ Mrs. Rene Speed
Mr. Sam E. Ezell, Sr.
Baraca Sunday School, FBC
Greenwood
Ray Famularo
Mr. & Mrs. Cliburn & Melodi
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Mrs. Mabel Fortenberry
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Wells Creek Hunting Club
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Mr. & Mrs. Ethan Allen Jr.
Mrs. John W. Jordan
Mr. & Mrs. William D. Mann
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Katy Crane
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Mr. & Mrs. Charles (Skipper)
Kerr
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(To be continued)

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Ms. Dot Womack
Mr. & Mrs. Huber Kendrick
& girls
Francis Youngblood
Mr. & Mrs. Huber Kendrick
& girls



Pictured are many of the Alumni present at the 1990 Reunion of former residents of The Baptist Children's Village and "Baptist Orphanage." The meeting was held in Powell Chapel followed by lunch. We hope you will join us in 1992.

Baptists walk with missionaries at Jericho

By Mark Wingfield

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Lay people and ministers walked among missionaries and were challenged to follow their footsteps during "Jericho: A Missions Festival."

The week-long missions conference at Glorieta Conference Center was jointly sponsored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission, and Sunday School Board.

Nearly 90 home and foreign missionaries spent the week with the 2,250 people attending Jericho. Through seminars, Bible study, interactive games and personal conversation, participants were challenged to give to missions and go as missionaries.

The week built to a climax on the final night when 40 foreign missionaries shared their testimonies in an appointment service. The new appointees will serve in 18 countries.

Through the testimonies, participants heard about the appointees' families, calling, and vision.

Elizabeth Hilyer, who along with her husband, Thomas, was appointed to Spain, told how God had called her to missions over the course of 15 years.

She recalled attending a missions emphasis where a young man leaned over to her during the invitation to say, "Don't you hear God calling you?"

"I have since married the man who asked me that presumptuous question," she said. The two will return to Spain where Thomas Hilyer previously has been a missionary.

Diane Garcia, a widow with 10- and 11-year-old sons, told about her call to Ecuador. As a 10-year-old, she made a public commitment to missions.

While serving as a summer missionary in Colombia, Garcia met her husband, who was studying there and later became a pastor. After living and working in Colombia, they returned to the United States, where he died of stomach cancer.

"He died two-and-a-half years ago, but my call to missions didn't," she said. "It has been 33 years since I made my public commitment to foreign missions, and as I stand before you tonight at this very special, long-awaited moment of appointment, we are excited about being your missionaries."

James Seale told how he and his wife, Dana, felt called to medical mis-

sions in Venezuela but knew it would take "a miracle of God" to be appointed there. At the time there was no Baptist medical work there, and it was almost impossible to get a visa.

"Our testimony tonight is that God is able to open doors that no man can shut," he said, explaining he had received a personal invitation from the Venezuelan government to teach family medicine there.

On the opening night of the missions conference, Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis also testified to God's ability to open closed doors. "There is no wall that can keep God out," he declared, speaking of the Old Testament victory at Jericho.

He cited political, geographic and racial walls that Christians must overcome to spread the gospel today.

"The greatest wall we face is not of steel or stone," Lewis said. "The wall that's stopping our effort to win our world is called indifference."

A total of 68 people made public commitments during the week. Of those decisions, 52 were recorded during the altar call at the appointment service.

Wingfield writes for HMB.



Mac Alford, left, from Liberty Church, Liberty, and winner of the Mississippi youth Bible drill contest, participated in a drill demonstration during the Discipleship Training Leadership Conference at Glorieta Conference Center. With Alford is Carrie Bonnell from Immanuel Church of Miles City, Mont. (Photo by Terry Lackey.)



MISSIONARY AUTOGRAPH — Meredith, Becky and Mary Collins Hardy, left, of Burlington, N.C., get the autograph of foreign missionaries Mark and Linda Whitworth during "Jericho: A Missions Festival" at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center. (BP photo by Mark Sandlin)

Fun games teach serious lessons about missions

By Mark Wingfield

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — While visiting "Jericho" in New Mexico, Alice Arnold made an imaginary trip to India.

She was illiterate and could find no one to teach her to read.

Her husband, Les, fared better. While his wife stood in the hot New Mexico sun trying to read words she could not understand, he sat in the shade singing "God Bless America."

The two were participants in "Air Jericho," a world-awareness game played during "Jericho: A Missions Festival" at Glorieta Conference Center.

Participants were given printed "tickets" to countries with informa-

tion about culture, population, life expectancy, religion and other vital statistics. Their "flight" consisted of walking from the portico of New Mexico Hall into "countries" marked off in the parking lot with tape.

Mrs. Arnold was transported to a two-foot by three-foot block, which she shared with five other people. She was not allowed to step outside the border.

Meanwhile, her husband sat in a padded chair under the large portico. He was pampered with water to drink and magazines to read.

Members of The Company, a drama troupe from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, acted as hosts for Air Jericho.

They dressed in appropriate costumes, such as safari gear for Africa and a Statue of Liberty head-dress for America.

In the course of the 45-minute game, an imaginary earthquake hit India, killing three of the six people living there. "Oh, my goodness, there's been an earthquake in the Middle East," a robed actor told the imaginary residents. "You, you, and you are dead," she said, pointing randomly to three people.

Some Americans were sent as missionaries to the needy countries, but once there, they had to learn the culture and language by memorizing facts and a string of words that amounted to gibberish in English.

The purpose of the game was to help participants realize the demands of mission work and the relative comfort of Americans, said Dennis Parrish, a Southwestern Seminary professor and director of The Company. Members of the troupe spent months learning facts and customs to make the game more realistic.

"It dramatized for me how soft Americans really have it," said Arnold, who toward the end of the game was sent from America to Pakistan only to be eliminated by an earthquake. "I learned it is tougher to do what you want to do than you realize."

The Arnolds, from Smoky Hill Baptist Association in Manhattan, Kan.,

plan to do volunteer work in the real India. After playing Air Jericho, Mrs. Arnold said she was more mindful than ever about the difficult situation and needs there.

Air Jericho was one of numerous games and hands-on experiences offered during the week-long missions conference. Now in its second year, Jericho is a joint project of the Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Sunday School Board, Brotherhood Commission, and Woman's Missionary Union.

A Missions Money game demonstrated the importance of cooperative giving. To play, each registrant was given 10 fake \$10 bills to donate to missionaries during a missions fair.

Dottie Williamson, a home missionary in Mississippi, sent her sister and nephews to solicit Missions Money. One of the children wore a sign around his neck reading: "My aunt is Dottie Williamson, church planter in Mississippi. We are collecting money for a new mission in a rural area of Mississippi. It is poor! We need \$50,000 to build a church. Would you please help us?"

At day's end, Williamson had collected \$6,800. However, the effort caused a distraction because Williamson was supposed to staff an exhibit during that time. "I was so busy collecting money I couldn't work," she said.

Brad and Suzie Price, media missionaries in Colombia, didn't want to ask for donations. They offered drawings of Glorieta scenes for \$50 in Missions Money and collected \$1,500.

Nathan Porter, a home missionary working with domestic hunger, received only a few of the fake bills. During the missions fair he passed out cups of cold water. "I haven't gotten any money because I've been ministering," he said.

Maria Carter, missionary to Argentina, summed up the purpose of the game: "We're extremely grateful for the Cooperative Program so that we don't have to do this every day."

Wingfield writes for HMB.

Jericho participants answer call to pray

By Mark Wingfield

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Small sentences added up to big prayer requests for participants in "Jericho: A Missions Festival" this summer.

The week-long missions conferences were held at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center and Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Participants, who were mostly laypeople and pastors with an interest in missions, were confronted with facts and figures about missions needs at home and around the world. At the call to prayer in each evening session, worship leader Esther Burroughs presented up-to-date statistics gleaned from a variety of sources. Burroughs works in the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's evangelism program.

A sampling of what participants heard and were asked to pray about includes:

— Of the 5 billion people living on earth, nearly 2 billion have never heard the name of Jesus.

— Of 11,500 people groups with their own language, culture and identity, 2,000 are unreached with the gospel.

— The 100 countries where Southern Baptists do not have formal missions work comprise 80 percent of the world's population.

— Nearly 70 nations are restricted or hostile to Christian missionaries.

— More than 80,000 lost people move to cities each day.

— By 2000 A.D., the five largest cities in the world (none of which will be in the United States) will each have more than 20 million residents.

— Total gifts of all Southern Baptists to foreign missions in 1988 was \$147.4 million, an average of 4 cents per lost person in the world.

— More than 1,700 children die of hunger and related diseases every

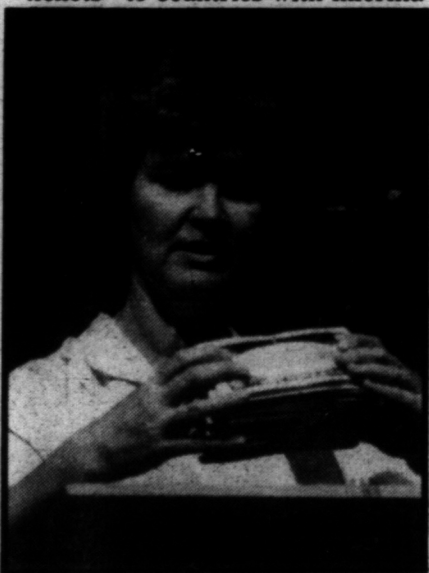
hour.
— Worldwide there are 400 million people on the verge of starvation, yet three of every 10 Americans die yearly due to overeating.

— American garbage cans are fed better than 30 percent of the world's population.

— If lined up single file, the world's hungry people would circle the globe 25 times.

— Of all the 14-year-old American girls alive today, 40 percent will become pregnant by their 19th birthday.

— Every 68 seconds, a teenager attempts suicide in America.



FUNNY MONEY — Mississippi church planter Dottie Williamson examines the missions money she collected during a game played at "Jericho: A Missions Festival" at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center. Through creative methods, Williamson collected more of the fake money than any other missionary at the conference. Participants were given 10 fake \$10 bills to give to the missionaries of their choice. The point was to illustrate the value of Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program, which does not require missionaries to raise their funds. (BP photo by Mark Sandlin)

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